

### **REMARKS**

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough examination of the application. No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this Amendment.

### **Entry of Amendment**

Entry of this Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 is respectfully requested because it cancels claims to thereby place the application in condition for allowance.

### **Status of the Claims**

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 9-15 and 17-19 are pending in the application. Claims 1-8 and 16 are canceled.

### **Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) Over Bergstrom**

Claims 1-8 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Bergstrom (U.S. Patent No. 5,468,829). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Although the Applicants do not accede that claims 1-8 and 16 are unpatentable over Bergstrom, in order to expedite prosecution of the application, claims 1-8 and 16 are canceled. This rejection is therefore rendered moot.

This rejection is overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

The Examiner has allowed claims 9-15 and 17-19.

**Information Disclosure Statement**

The Examiner is thanked for considering the Information Disclosure Statement filed December 31, 2003, and for making the initialed PTO-1449 form of record in the application in the Office Action mailed December 23, 2004.

**Prior Art**

The prior art cited but not utilized by the Examiner shows the status of the conventional art that the invention supercedes. Additional instructions are accordingly not necessary.

**Conclusion**

The rejection is rendered moot. No issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

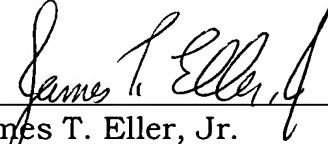
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 9, 2005



Respectfully submitted,

By   
James T. Eller, Jr.

Registration No.: 39,538  
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP  
8110 Gatehouse Rd  
Suite 100 East  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000  
Attorney for Applicant